Anſwers

To ſome of the Queries, *which were recommended by Sir* R. Moray *to Sir* Phil. Vernatti, *Preſident in* Java Major, *were left un-anſwered of theſe that are found in the* Hiſtory *of the* R. Society, *p.* 158, *&c.*

1. The greateſt length of time, that Pearl-divers in theſe parts can hold under water, is about a quarter of an hour; and by no other means but Cuſtome: For Pearl-diving laſteth not above Six weeks, and the *Divers* ſtay a great while longer under water at the end of the Seaſon, then at the beginning. Here at *Batavia* is an expert *Diver*, who draws wages for nothing elſe but for diving for Anchors, Guns, *&c.* loſt in the Road. I have ſeen him ſeveral times go down, holding my breath as long as I could, but he ſtay'd ten times as long under water, as I could hold my breath. But he will not go down, unleſs you give him a whole Pint of Strong-water.

2. The Oyle drawn out of the Roots of *Cinamon-trees*, and reſembling *Camphir*, is thence extracted, the Roots being dried, bruis'd, and ſteep'd in water, and then drawn over by an *Alembec*.

3. The *Lignum Aloes* is the part of a Living Tree, but commonly found, when 'tis wither'd. The Tree it ſelf is of a white ſoft wood, giving a milky juice, which is ſo venemous withal, that if in cutting the Tree, any of the milk light in your eye, you grow blind; if on any other part of the Body, it becomes ſcabby, and noyſomly ſore. The *Lignum Aloes*, or *Calambac*, is found within the White-wood, but not every where. When the Tree decays, the White-wood ſoon withers, and grows worm-eaten; and the Milk ſo dries up, that you may eaſily rub it aſunder with your hand. The beſt is found in the midſt of the Tree, nouriſh'd by the Heart-root, which goes ſtreight down into the ground.

4. The Wood, ſtinking like humane Excrement, grows thus naturally in the Iſles of *Solor* and *Timor*, and thereabouts.

5. There are indeed ſuch Serpents in theſe parts, which have an Head on each end of their Body, called *Capra capella*. They are eſteem'd *Sacred* by theſe people, and fortunate to thoſe in whoſe houſe and lands they are found; but pernicious to whomſoever doth them harm. I would have ſent one, but could get no man that would kill them.

Theſe Anſwers were accompanied with divers Curioſities, ſent over by the ſame Generous Perſon for the Repoſitory of the *R. Society*; among which were the Pictures of the true *Musk-Dear*, and of divers Aromatical, and other *Eaſt-Indian* Vegetables, and particularly of the *Nutmeg* called *Theeving*; becauſe that being put among a whole room full of good Nutmegs, though it be but one, it will corrupt them all: Beſides a very fragrant Oyle, drawn out of the bark of a Tree (called *Lawang*:) and ſome of the Blood of a Fiſh, call'd *Bedille*, eſteem'd very excellent againſt Fluxes of Blood. Together with which ſhould have come a ſort of *Beans* growing on the Coaſt of *Coromandel*, having this quality, that the inſide of an Earthen Veſſel being rubb'd therewith, the moſt muddy water powred into it, will precipitate all its muddineſs; but this was loſt by the way. 'Mean time care is taken to procure ſome others of that kind, to make the Experiment here.